The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the legislative, executive and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Without labor nothing prospers.—Sophocles.

WHOLE NO. 1140 — WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1933 — FRANK MORRISON, Secretary — VOL. 22, NO. 49

Shorter Hours and Business Recovery

The thirty-hour week to provide work for the jobless, liberalization of bank credit for business concerns, and effective participation by the Government to bring about these objects, are stressed as necessary for business recovery by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, in an editorial on "Keys to the Problem" in the American Federationist.

On the question of jobs and the refusal of those who own and control industry to reorganize it on the basis of shorter hours to provide work for the unemployed, Mr. Green said:

"There is no way permanently to sustain a nation except by work, hence our relief measures should be directed toward restoring work opportunities.

"For the past twelve months men and women have been sinking further and further down the valley of depression. Those in positions of power have made no effort to get at the causes of our present disaster. They seemed concerned only with their own balance sheets. The root of the evil is greed. The powerful increased their share of returns at the expense of others who cooperated in joint enterprises. The result was unbalance. The buyers in retail markets could not buy enough to keep industries going to capacity. There has been flagrant dishonesty in the management of banking, industries and utilities.. Dishonesty on both small and large scales has involved us in the breakdown of our business system.

"The leaders of industry and finance still have the chance, if they will turn their experience to service in finding the principles of a square deal for all and balance in social justice. They must learn to look out for others as essential to looking out for themselves.

"This first step is to assure every individual the right to earn a living.. Unless there soon is evidence of this kind of leadership can patience endure?

"Even under the present conditions some mills are working their employes 55 and 60 hours a week. The result is to encourage price declines and ruinous competition destructive to the standards of legitimate industry. In this situation in which the complete collapse of our business institutions is involved organized society has by its very nature authority to take the necessary action."

A New Kind of Bank President

The annual report of John R. Waller, president of the International Bank, Washington, D. C., to the stockholders of the bank is an unusual document. Instead of attempting to hide the facts regarding the business and labor situation, which is the ordinary practice of bank presidents, Mr. Waller takes off the lid and gives the stockholders the plain undisguised facts.

Pointing out that public confidence has been largely destroyed, but that there is hope in the ability of the Administration which takes over control of the Government in March to do something constructive, Mr. Waller gives the following analysis of the situation:

"An emergency more serious than war confronts the country, and the people have placed their hopes in a new leader. Unless cures rather than palliatives are made effective, debtors face bankruptcy and creditors face repudiation; unemployment will increase and debtors, creditors and Governments alike will drift into insolvency.

"A year ago this Nation looked hopefully to emergency legislation creating the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, the Federal Home Loan Bank and other devices to bring about a gradual recovery. These agencies have proved ineffectual, and public faith has been further impaired. Nearly fifteen million workers are out of employment, and the boasted standards of American wages and living have almost disappeared. As a result, the fiber of the Nation is being gradually weakened, but the depression is compelling the people to cooperate for their mutual protection. They now realize that no magical process will bring this crisis to an end.

"At the present time no commodities that are grown or mined can be sold at a profit. It is imperative that the purchasing power of the people, and especially that of the farmer, be restored. The profitableness of all enterprise, the relief of unemployment and the stability of the Government itself, are dependent upon this being done."

Turning to the billions and billions of dollars of private and public debts which those who control industry and governments have saddled on the people, Mr. Waller declares:

"An examination of production and indebtedness in the United States establishes the existence of a debt structure which has been increasing at a rate faster than production, and both of them faster than the ratio of population. In 1929 the national income was nearly ninety billion dollars, while the debts below the Government stood at about equal to the tax levies together with interest on private indebtedness. We have reached a point when the total income of the people is insufficient to pay interest and taxes."

Mr. Waller is to be congratulated for the frank and truthful statement of the ruin which those who own and control industry have brought to the American people. It is regrettable that more bank presidents do not apply his policy and tell the truth to their stockholders.

LABOR TABLOIDS

Eight-Hour Law Violator Fined.—H. S. Preble, proprietor of the Moca cafe in Fort Lupton, Colo., was fined $100 and costs for violating the women's eight-hour law. J. H. Ruberson of the State Industrial Commission handled the case on a complaint filed by Mrs. Nell Schilling, who claimed the proprietor compelled her to work 12 hours a day.

Technocracy Convention.—The American Technocratic League, organized by Franklin P. Wood of Denver, Colo., will hold its first convention in that city next July.

Alberta Federation of Labor.—The annual convention of the Alberta, Canada, Federation of Labor re-elected Fred J. White president of the Federation. He was also chosen as delegate of the Federation to the convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, which meets in Windsor next September.

Misleading Advertisements for Labor.—A daily newspaper of Miami, Fla., carried an advertisement for carpenters. When the carpenters applied for the work, they found they were wanted to sell lumber on a five per cent commission. Miami Central Labor Union protested against this misleading advertising.

Municipal Ownership of Light and Power.—The Federation of Trades and Allied Unions of Atlanta, Ga., asked the State Legislature to amend the law to enable Atlanta to own and operate its own municipal electric system.

Non-Partisan Labor Leagues.—Trade unionists in a number of Central Illinois towns perfected the organization of a non-partisan labor league to keep track the records of all candidates for political office. V. W. Storry of Peoria is president of the central organization.

Walker and Nesbit Head Illinois Miners.—John H. Walker and Wilson N. Nesbit were re-elected president and secretary-treasurer of the Illinois branch of the United Mine Workers of America.

Peoria "We Don't Patronize" List.—Fifteen concerns are listed as unfair to organized labor by the Peoria, Ill., Trades and Labor Assembly. The list includes 1 cigar concern, 1 furnace company, 2 groceries, 1 barber shop, 1 boiler works, 1 metal works, 1 creamery, 1 restaurants, 1 laundry, 1 oil company, 1 ice company, and 1 iron works.

Receiver for Union.—Circuit Judge John W. Gerdink of Terre Haute, Ind., has appointed a receiver for the Vigo County Central Labor Union, with instructions to advertise the assets for sale at not less than the appraised value as determined by two appraisers named by the court.

Laborers' Union Organized.—A local union of the International Hod Carriers and Common Laborers' Union was organized in Burlington, Iowa, by Leo Burke, who was elected president of the organization. The local started off with a membership of 100.

OLD-AGE PENSIONS ARE IN DANGER, EPSTEIN SAYS

New York.—Charging that a nation-wide campaign is in full swing to repeal most of our labor and social legislation, Abraham Epstein, secretary of the American Association for Old-Age Security, issued an appeal to the friends of old-age pensions to organize to fight "the nullification of all that has been built up in the United States through a generation of effort."

In the Old-Age Security Herald, the organ of his association, Mr. Epstein said the reactionary propaganda has so intimidated our legislators that social legislation now on the statute books is in danger of repeal by the Legislatures now in session.

Mr. Epstein criticized a number of Governors who in their campaigns made innumerable promises about caring for the destitute aged, but who, he alleged, have repudiated their promises. Governor Ely of Massachusetts, Governor Cross of Connecticut, Governor Moore of New Jersey, and Governor White of Ohio were mentioned as having given much of their campaign sympathy for old-age security measures.

Pointing out that the entire cost of the old-age pension system in New York State was only $5.50 a year for each owner of $10,000 worth of assessed property, Mr. Epstein claimed the support of only half the present pensioners through almshouses or charity would have cost more than the present expenditures.

Federal Control of Profits Urged to Benefit Workers

New York.—The regulated distribution of profits among those who own the natural industries, the miners, and the employes is proposed by Samuel Pike, president of Pike's soap manufacturers of Philadelphia, in an article in the Survey Graphic. The distribution would be established by a commodity dollar as official death, however, in accordance with the trade practices relations that have governed its use for the past 100 years.

There was a total vote cast of 5,942, with 3,169 voting "yes" on the question of whether or not the plan should continue in operation, and 1,195 voting to retain the plan.

Capitalists Destroy Homes

Denver, Colo.—Rev. Hugh L. McMenamin, rector of the Immaculate Conception Church here, declared American capitalists are responsible for the appalling increase in broken homes. He said the demands of big business for large profits resulted in starvation wages for men, and when they became unable to support their families the women and children were forced to obtain jobs to make up the deficit in the family budget.

BOSTON EMPLOYERS JAILED FOR VIOLATING UNION PACT

Boston, Mass.—Judge Winfred H. Brown of the Suffolk Superior Court fined Morris Levine of Somerville and John Winer of Roxbury $375 each and 15 days in jail for violating an injunction last October restraining them from hiring non-union employes by their Boston Bakery.

The injunction was sought by Local 45 of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers International Union of America, on the claim that the defendants were by contract to hire only members of the union in baking bread for the Jewish trade.

The court found that the contract had been violated and issued the restraining order asked by the Bakers' Union. But Morris and Levine ignored the court order and continued to hire non-union help in defiance of their contract agreement and the injunction.

In determining the amount of the fine, Judge Whiting took into consideration the fact that by hiring non-union workers the defendants had saved a total of $750 in wages. Each defendant was therefore fined one-half that sum, $375, in addition to the 15-day jail sentence.

SOCIALIZATION OF WEALTH ADVOCATED FOR RECOVERY

Teachers College Official Says Present Machine Production Means Large Profits for the Few and Low Earning Power for the Masses, with Increasing Numbers of Jobless.

New York.—A strong criticism of the present economic order for the unjust distribution of wealth and an indictment of those who control the business and labor situation, which is the ordinary practice of bank presidents, Mr. Waller takes off the lid and gives the stockholders the plain undisguised facts.

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Union Label Goods Urged To Bar Foreign Products

Chicago, Ill.—Waiters Alliance No. 25, in a resolution presented to the Chicago Federation of Labor, charged that department stores and mail order houses maintain large groups of buyers in European and Asiatic markets, who purchase millions of dollars worth of shoddy goods to be sold in the United States to the detriment of American workers employed.

The executive board of the Federation decided to direct the attention of the American Federation of Labor to the situation with the recommendation that widespread publicity be given to the campaign to buy union labels and urge exclusively as the only guarantee that goods are not made by cheap, European labor, but are produced in America under decent standards of living.

New York Adds $15,000,000 To Unemployment Relief Fund

Thirty-Hour Week and Local Labor Prescribed for Highway Work

Albany ,N. Y.—The State Legislature appropriated $15,000,000 for unemployment relief, to be immediately available.

In a letter to Colonel Greeley, Commissioner of Public Works, Gov. Lehman suggested that all contracts for highway work during 1933 stipulate no person shall be employed more than 30 hours per week, that the minimum hourly rate of wages for labor in the locality shall be stated in the contract and that contractors shall be required to pay not less than such rate, and that as far as possible all unskilled labor shall be citizens who have resided for a substantial period of time in the immediate vicinity in which the work is to be done.

Gov. Lehman said he desired the same rules to be applied throughout the State on highway maintenance work.

Amoskeag Employes Kill Company Union by Vote

Manchester, N. H.—The employes of the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company killed by a large vote the company union plan, which for the past two years has been the medium of arbitration and adjustment between mill officials and workers. It will be 90 days before the plan formally dies an official death, however, in accordance with the rules and regulations that have governed its use for the past two years.

There was a total vote cast of 5,942, with 3,169 voting "yes" on the question of whether or not the plan should continue in operation, and 1,195 voting to retain the plan.

MILLIONS OF JOBLESS LIVE IN DESTITUTION

McGrady Holds Owners of Industry Responsible for Unemployment and Other Social Ills —Compulsory Insurance Urged As Relief Measure.

Lynchburg, Va.—Complete responsibility for the millions of unemployed and their destitution was placed on those who own and control industry by Edward F. McGrady, legislative representative of the American Federation of Labor, in an address before the conference on unemployment insurance here. The conference was held under the auspices of the Lynchburg Workers' Education Committee in cooperation with the Bryn Mawr Summer School and the Southern Summer School for Women Workers in Industry.

Industry Mismanaged

"Because of gross mismanagement of our social and industrial system," Mr. McGrady said, "millions and millions workers have no employment whatsoever, fifteen million more exist only with the help of charity, four millions are living in poverty, millions of school children suffer from malnutrition because of lack of food, hospitals and asylums are filled to overflowing, while at the same time there is more than enough food, clothing and wealth, if they were properly distributed to allow all of us to live in comfort."

"We are asking for compulsory unemployment insurance because financial and industrial management has failed to provide and preserve work opportunities for working men and women making it impossible for all to earn a livelihood. We are forcing a permanent unemployment condition due to the continued displacement of millions of working men and women through mechanization of industry and the substitution of power for human service.

Industry Must Furnish Relief

"The bankers are controlling industry and industry controls jobs. Theirs the responsibility for present conditions, and industry must be compelled to do what it has thus far failed to do. They must be compelled to assume the burden of supplying relief to the millions of unemployed whom they fail to provide work.

"We believe that the payment of this relief shall be made a fixed charge upon industry. Relief funds should be raised out of the earnings of industry. We do not believe it is fair that any part of the necessary cost of relief be paid during periods of unemployment should be collected from the employes.

Compulsory State Insurance

"We believe that unemployment insurance must be made compulsory and that the execution and administration of unemployment insurance laws should come within the jurisdiction and administration of Federal and State governments.

"While we believe that it would be better to have one uniform measure for unemployment insurance applicable throughout the United States, we recognize the limitations of the United States Constitution as interpreted by the courts make this at present impossible because of the variations in conditions of and industry lies primarily within the province of the States rather than in the Federal Government.

Federal Contribution

"Therefore, we advocate the passage of unemployment insurance laws providing in each separate State and the supplementing of such State legislation by Federal enactments covering employes engaged in interstate commerce or in the District of Columbia. We also believe that corporations might well receive substantial income tax credit on their Federal income taxes for such payments as they have to make under State laws toward the creation of unemployment reserves.

Private Insurance Opposed

"We are opposed to any insurance company in this country being allowed to invade the field of unemployment compensation. The amount of benefits to be paid and the number of weeks thereafter which they shall be paid must depend upon the local conditions in each State and the amount of contributions made into the field.

"For instance, we are informed that under the conditions prevailing in Ohio a contribution of three per cent of the total pay roll makes it possible after a waiting period of three weeks for each to pay benefits for a maximum period of sixteen weeks in a year based upon fifty per cent of the normal weekly wage but not to exceed $15 per week.

"Already seventeen nations have such employment benefits. In the United States statistics covering the years 1929 to 1932, inclusive, show that the minimum cost of relief for unemployed workers, totaling about about 150,000 workers.

Union Insurance and Benefits

"Forty-seven unions in the American Federation of Labor insure their members against unemployment. In 1929 they paid to their unemployed $276,-915.50; in 1930, $3,211,275.55; in 1931, $9,146,724.35, and in 1932 without complete returns it will be well over $12,-000,000.

"The unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor paid out last year to their members in sick, death, unemployment, old-age and disability, the amount of $23,261,471.14. Obviously, because of increased unemployment, it is going to be impossible for us to continue. That means that the localities and the States will have to assume an added burden, one that they are not carrying ourselves.

"In conclusion I want to impress upon you that in this nation of wealth we have indeed gone insane. The multitudes of 2,000 years ago when the Lord's Prayer was written and they said, 'Give us this day our daily bread.'

State Police of Colorado Abolished by Gov. Johnson

Denver, Colo.—Gov. Edward C. Johnson established the State Police, officially known as the State Law Enforcement Department, as a part of his campaign to reduce the expenses of the State Government. Organized labor supported Governor Johnson's action.

Although the attorney general's interpretation of the law limited the State Police to the enforcement of the prohibition law, Governor Johnson pressed it into service during the coal strike of 1927. In an encounter between the State Police and striking miners at the Columbine mine in November of that year seven miners were killed and a score wounded. None of the miners was armed.

Lewis N. Scherr, chief of the department, was in command of the State Police at the Columbine mine when the massacre of the miners took place. With the abolition of the department, Scherr loses his job.

NEVADA FULL-CREW LAW UPHELD BY JUDGE GUILD

Reno, Nev.—Judge Clark J. Guild upheld the constitutionality of the Nevada full crew law for railroads in a decision in which he declared the statute "is not arbitrary or unjust exercise of the police power of the State."

The law in force prescribes that on trains consisting of more than three or less than fifty passenger or other cars the crew must consist of not less than five persons.

Last October the officials of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company operated two gas-electric motored trains on its Wendell branch with a crew of four. They contended that four persons comprised a full crew for a gas-electric train, and that the Nevada law does not require a fireman on other than a train operated by steam.

"The legislature of our State," Judge Guild said, "left out of the act the motive power by which the train is operated, and, in doing so, clearly indicated that, irrespective of the motive used to pull the cars or trailers, there was to be a crew of so many persons, enumerating them according to the number of cars in the train."

"There is a well reasoned rule that courts should give effect to the legislature's will. . . . I think clearly there is no other construction that can be placed upon the statute here in question. Now other than that it is the matter up with the American Federation of Labor to see if something could not be done to stop this lowering of living standards in the South.

MINIMUM PAY LAW URGED FOR WOMEN AND MINORS

Boston Labor Legislation Conference Demands Shorter Work Week, and Declares That Minors Under 16 Should Not Be Employed.

Boston, Mass.—Stabilizing the American wage level by the greater protection of our workers and further reduction of the working day" was urged by the Labor Legislation Conference in Laws in an extensive program of "humane labor" measures to be submitted to the Governors and Legislatures of nine Industrial States.

The conference went on record as favoring the establishment of minimum wage laws for women workers and the mandatory minimum wage laws for women and minors in industry in every State.

The conference also recommended legislation for insurance for the elimination of night work for women employed in industry, the establishment of industries between the hours of 6 p. m. and 6 a. m.," with certain exceptions, the regulation of hours of employment in mercantile establishments, hotels and restaurants between 11 p. m. and 6 a. m.

Another recommendation adopted proposed a minimum age of 16 years during school hours for employment in any occupation, and of 14 years outside of school hours, with compulsory school attendance standards amended to meet these requirements; and employment certificates for all minors under 16 years, including proof of age, promises of employment, description of occupation and hours of work, and physical examination.

The recommendations on hours of labor and working conditions for women were prepared by a subcommittee headed by Miss Frances Perkins, New York State Industrial Commissioner.

The States represented at the conference were Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island.

Stock Frauds in New York Cost Investors $48,352,465

New York.—The investing public in New York State was defrauded in connection with the purchase of worthless securities in the first nine months of 1932, according to Evans Clark, director of the Twentieth Century Fund, Inc., "Fear Is Budget Health," a book published by Harper & Brothers.

The insurance would cover periodical examinations by doctors and dentists and the cost of medicine, nursing and hospital care when necessary.

The plan is operated under the guild system about 15,000 persons being cared for by thirty-two full-time physicians and seven part-time doctors and dentists.

Alameda Lawyer Blocks Antipicketing Ordinance

Alameda, Calif.—Deputy District Attorney Smallwood of Alameda county moved to dismiss charges against 100 of the police department of Alameda at the Municipal Court, ordered the Neptune Theatre to prevent representatives of the Building Trades Council from being arrested, and declared that the ordinance passed recently by the city council was unconstitutional so far as the sale of the East Bay Labor Journal was concerned.

He said the ordinance as construed by the police would interfere with the freedom of the press, its publication and circulation. He buttressed his contention with decisions of the California Supreme Court.

Morrison Links Prosperity With 30-Hour Week and Jobs for All

WORKERS PAID 20 CENTS PER HOUR IN FLORIDA

Miami Iron Worker Claims Reconstruction Finance Corporation Provides Funds for Contractors Whose Wage Rates Are Below Decent Standards.

Miami, Fla.—H. O. McClurg, delegate of the Iron Workers' Union to the Miami Central Labor Union, charged that certain contractors in Florida are making large profits at the expense of the workers by paying low wages on work done with funds received from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

He claimed that on a trip made to certain labor conditions he found that at Stuart the contractors were paying skilled labor 20 cents and common labor 15 cents per hour. He said that the wages were not reflected in the price for the work done by the contractor on the project costing more in proportion than the bridge work done at Punta Gorda by the State of Florida, where mechanics were paid the prevailing wage rate. The contractor, he pointed out, come in from other States.

The officials of the Central Labor Union were instructed to take the matter up with the American Federation of Labor to see if something could not be done to stop this lowering of living standards in the South.

Tampa Unions Get Prevailing Wage Rate Before City Board

Tampa, Fla.—A delegation from the Central Trades and Labor Assembly of Tampa persuaded the Tampa Board of Representatives to place in every ordinance providing for the prevailing wage rate, which had been shelved for a number of months.

The ordinance provides that every city contract for the construction, alteration and repairs of public works "shall contain provisions to the effect that the rate of wages or pay for all laborers and employes employed by the contractor or any subcontractor shall be not less than the prevailing rate of wages or pay being paid for work of a similar nature then being executed in the city of Tampa."

In case of a dispute as to what the prevailing wage rate is, the ordinance provides that the matter shall be referred to an arbitration committee consisting of the president of the Central Trades and Labor Assembly, the president of the Building Trades Council, the Mayor, the president of the Board of Representatives, and one member to be appointed by the Mayor.

The ordinance was drafted by Sam Feingold, attorney for the Central Trades and Labor Assembly.

The committee of the Central Labor Union which handled the case before the Board of Representatives consisted of Chas. H. Silva, Lee Tierney, Mike Flaherty, and C. L. Littlefield.

Union Relief Kitchen Gives Meals to Thousands of Idle

Jackson, Mich.—The relief kitchen operated by the Federation of Labor of Jackson has furnished 325,706 meals to destitute unemployed and their dependents since it was opened. During one week 5,455 meals were provided, of which 1,515 were for women and children. Individuals, organizations and merchants make liberal donations of food supplies.

Socialized Production Urged For Relief of Unemployment

Vancouver, Canada.—W. Watt, delegate of the Plumbers Union to the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council, and Labor Council, introduced a resolution charging the Canadian Government with refusing to provide adequate relief for the hundreds of thousands of workers unemployed and in need. In connection with the resolution requested a continuation of the debate to a second meeting of the council.

SAVE JOBS BY CONTROLLING LABOR-DISPLACING MACHINES

Columbia University Economists Says Jobs of Printing Pressmen's Assistants Are Destroyed by New Machines.

New York.—"Unless we devise a method of absorbing displaced workers in self-respecting occupations there will be serious or protracted periods of unemployment, no matter how much we progress and the substitution of men by machines in the same breath."

That is the conclusion reached by Professor Elizabeth F. Baker of the department of economics, Columbia University, in her findings following a four-year study of the printing trades and published by the Columbia University Press with the title "The Displacement of Men by Machines."

Although Professor Baker limited her study to the printing trades she declares her conclusions are applicable to industry as a whole.

The particular problem covered by Professor Baker's work is the situation confronting the New York pressmen's assistants, who numbered 2,600 before the depression and are now faced with industrial extinction caused by the great advance in the mechanization of the commercial branch of printing. New presses are installed and feeding reduced to obsolescence.

It is Professor Baker's conviction that a united program of the printing pressmen and their employing printing interests could develop methods by which the displacement of workers by new machines would be avoided or largely mitigated.

In addition to greater stabilization of industry and provisions for benefits during periods of unemployment, Professor Baker added that "we would seem to need a 'district attorney' to protect the interests of the public in industries engaged in such as in the government of cities."

Labor Hits Non-Union Dog Track.—

Organized labor of Tampa, Fla., reported progress in the fight against the Sulphur Springs Dog Track, which refused to employ local and union labor after a verbal and written agreement to do so. The labor committee in charge of the campaign against dog track management distributes circulars regarding the anti-union outfit and uses a sound truck twice a week with side banners carrying the same advertisements.

Herman Elected Head of Industry

"When employers and captains of industry have as broad a vision as has been demonstrated by labor and give serious consideration to the human element in industry in addition to the money interests involved, we may look forward with hope to stabilizing industry on a basis that will not only take us out of this 'slough of despond,' but will make for permanent prosperity never before realized."

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